The Draft Modalities text does not suggest discontinuation of Overall Trade-Distorting Domestic Support (OTDS). The text, *inter-alia*, proposes a tiered formula for reduction of OTDS and also suggests a range of cuts in each tier. The range of cuts in OTDS suggested for the European Communities and the United States of America are 75% to 85% and 66% to 73% respectively. The text further proposes higher cuts by developed countries, which have a high OTDS of 40 percent or more of their total value of agricultural production. The Draft Modalities text is scheduled to be discussed in detail from 3 September, 2007 in meetings of the COA-SS.

Extension of rebates to IT industry

†1070. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IT industry is demanding an exclusive SEZ for itself or its inclusion in the existing SEZs;

(b) whether this demand of the industry is based on its apprehension that the rebates available to it would be withdrawn by 2009 and if its SEZs are set up then these rebates may be available for long term; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the rebates and concessions to IT industry even beyond 2009 so that there might not be any need of SEZ for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) In terms of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006, Sector Specific Special Economic Zone (SEZ) can be set up exclusively for Electronics Hardware and Software including Information Technology Enabled Services subject to the developer meeting the requirements specified in the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006. The SEZ Policy provides for procedural simplification and ease of operations through Single window; mechanism and fiscal concessions are just one part of it. No proposal to extend the income tax concessions for IT industry is under consideration.

Separate deep sea fisheries body under MPEDA

1071. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MPEDA is forming a separate body to focus directly on deep sea fisheries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this off-shoot of MPEDA will be based and made operational from Visakhapatnam;

(d) in what way does MPEDA have any experience of operating boats; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that MPEDA focuses and concentrates on its core duty of marine products exports only?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.